

Message Text

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DEPT FOR OES/SCI, PLEASE PASS NSF DR. GEORGE JAMES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, TGEN

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION WITH SSIE ON ON-GOING
ENERGY-RELATED R & D PROJECT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

REF: PARIS 2583

1. SSIE'S DR. HERSEY AND LAKAMP MET WITH BNIST MICHEL TODAY TO DISCUSS SUBJECT EXCHANGE. MICHEL EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARRANGEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 REFTEL. HE STATED THAT LETTERS WENT OUT TO POTENTIALLY INTERESTED FRENCH AGENCIES IN LATE JANUARY AND HOPES THAT REPLIES WILL START ARRIVING BY WEEK OF FEB 10. HE ANTICIPATES EARLIEST SUBMISSION OF PROJECT DESCRIPTION SHEETS ARRIVING AROUND MARCH. HE STATED THAT PROBABLY THERE WILL BE NO PARTICIPATION BY THE UNIVERSITIES BUT REMARKED THAT IT WOULD BE A SMALL LOSS, AS THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT DOING MUCH ENERGY-RELATED RESEARCH. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE CEA'S RESPONSE WOULD BE.

2. MICHEL THEN BROACHED THE IDEA OF SENDING A HIGH QUALITY COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND DOCUMENTATION EXPERT TO SSIE TO STUDY IN DETAIL THE SSIE SYSTEM TOWARD THE END OF DEVELOPING SOMETHING SIMILAR FOR FRANCE. "THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT JOINT COOPERATION ACROSS THE BOARD" (PARAPHRASE). MICHEL MADE THIS PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS RECEIVED FAVORABLY BY DR. HERSEY,
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IN THE COURSE OF RELATING HOW THE FRENCH ON FURTHER

REFLECTION DECIDED THAT THEY COULD NOT JUSTIFY GOING AHEAD WITH THEIR OWN DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM "ARYAN", AS ITS DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION APPEARS TO BE FAR TOO EXPENSIVE. DR. HERSEY INDICATED HE WAS READY, IN PRINCIPLE, TO ACCEPT A VISITING FRENCH EXPERT AT ANY TIME.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH, LACKING--AS MICHEL STATED TODAY--ANY COMPARABLE COMPETENCE, AND HAVING CONCLUDED THAT DEVELOPING FROM SCRATCH THEIR OWN VERSION OF AN SSIE WOULD BE PROHIBITIVELY EXPENSIVE, SEE GREAT BENEFIT IN BEING ABLE TO STUDY SSIE FIRST HAND. AS DR. HERSEY NOTED, THE ADVANTAGE TO SSIE IS THAT IF THE FRENCH SET UP A SYSTEM COMPATIBLE WITH THAT OF SSIE'S, OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS MAY BE INCLINED TO DO LIKEWISE, GREATLY FACILITATING THE TRANSFER OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND EUROPE. IN THIS LIGHT WE ENCOURAGE, AT THIS TIME, CLOSER SSIE-BNIST COLLABORATION. HOWEVER, AS THEIR RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPS WITH FURTHER TRANSFER OF TECHNIQUE AND EXPERIENCE, IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE TO REVIEW THE QUID-PRO-QUO OF THE EXCHANGE.
STONE

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